

THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS

12. Called to be Ambassadors (1)



Introduction

In many parts of the world today there is conflict. As believers we are also in a conflict, not a physical one, but a spiritual one. We are called to be ambassadors for Christ, and to stand against the schemes of the evil one. The Apostle Paul has already shown us that we are seated with Christ in heavenly places, far above these powers of darkness, so we don't need to be afraid. However, we do need to be equipped, and this is what we will learn about now.

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 6:10-24

1. The Enemy v10-13

† Who is this battle against? V12

(It's against the authorities, powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the spiritual realm. Our battle is not against people, but the devil.)

† What do we need to do in order to stand against this enemy? V10, 11

(We need to depend on God's power and keep ourselves protected by the armor God has given us.)

† Four times we are told to 'stand'. V11, 13a, 13b, 14. What does this mean? Discuss.

(Rather than retreat or run, we are to stand firm, knowing that Jesus has already defeated the devil and he has given us authority to enforce that victory.)

† Although we are 'to stand' against the devil's schemes, we are to advance God's Kingdom. How are we to do this? See 5:15-17 and 6:15, 18-20.

(We are to be led by the Holy Spirit, to pray, and make the most of every opportunity he gives us.)

2. The Equipment v14-18

Paul wrote this letter from a prison in Rome and so he was familiar with the sight of soldiers dressed in armor! He likens their armor to what we need to wear to protect ourselves in this spiritual battle. Let's look at the 7 pieces of armor we need. In this study we will look at the first three and continue in our final study.

Belt of Truth v14

† What does it mean to have truth 'buckled around your waist'?

(It is a picture of wrapping truth around your whole life.)

† Why is truth so important in spiritual warfare? What truth is this referring to? Also see John 14:6, Ephesians 1:13, 4:15, 4:21

(Jesus is the Truth and so is his Word. Knowing the truth will protect us from being deceived by the lies of the devil. It is also important we speak the truth, so we don't open a door for the enemy in our lives.)

Breastplate of Righteousness v14

When we asked for God's forgiveness and accepted Jesus as our Savior, we were made righteous in God's sight. We are protected by the blood of Jesus. It is like a breastplate protecting our heart.

† How can we stay protected by the breastplate of righteousness in our daily lives? 1 John 1:7-9, 2:1-2

(To stay protected we need to walk in the light. If we do sin, then we need to ask forgiveness and believe that our sin has already been paid for by Jesus' precious blood.)

Shoes of the Gospel of Peace v15

Every soldier knows the importance of good footwear to protect his feet wherever he is sent. This speaks of God's peace.

† How can the peace of God help guide us in the right direction? Share an example from your own life.

(If we have peace in our heart then it is an assurance that we are on the right path.)

Conclusion

There is a conflict taking place in the heavenly realm, day and night, 24 hours a day. Satan knows his time is short, and he is seeking to keep men and women in his control. God's desire is that all men come to know Him, and as His children in the body of Christ, our mission is to preach the gospel. Like Paul, we are ambassadors for Christ. The gospel has the power to set people free from sin and Satan's grip, and bring them into God's Kingdom.

Just as soldiers need armor in a battle, we too need to be protected in this spiritual conflict. Our lives must be surrounded by truth and righteousness, which is only found in Jesus. As we follow the instructions of our Heavenly Captain, his peace will fill our hearts and we can be confident that he is with us and watching over us.